



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Wednesday, 5 July 1972
at 10.20 a.m.

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

President: Mr. SZARKA (Hungary)

Report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on applications for hearings (E/5189)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on applications for hearings (E/5189).
2. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Council approved the Committee's recommendations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 2

General discussion of international economic and social policy (continued) (E/5124, E/5132, E/5144, E/5145, E/5160, E/5161)

3. Mr. KOTAITE (Secretary-General, International Civil Aviation Organization) reviewed the general trends in international civil aviation in 1971. Although the over-all rate of growth of scheduled services, and consequently of airline profits, had been lower than in the previous year, there had been a sharp rise in non-scheduled services. Moreover, the operations of airlines in the developing countries had expanded at a greater rate than the general average. It could be said, therefore, that, as a whole, the expansion of international air traffic had been in accordance with the targets for economic growth set for the Second Development Decade. ICAO had supported that expansion by fostering international agreements on a number of technical, economic and legal problems raised by technological development, through which aviation would be able to contribute increasingly to international understanding and economic development.

4. ICAO had devoted special attention to ways of dealing with air piracy. Despite the efforts of countries, airport administrations and airlines, there had been many incidents in 1971, including 65 seizures of aircraft and 3 acts of sabotage. Since 1969, two conventions aimed at suppressing such acts had entered into force and a third had been signed by more than thirty countries. Those three conventions provided a legal framework for the protection of civil aviation and ICAO noted with satisfaction that many countries had responded to its appeal for their ratification. A new convention which would determine the possibilities for joint action in the case of unlawful acts against civil aviation was now being prepared. A manual on practical

measures to prevent such activities had been circulated to the States Members of ICAO, which was maintaining at a high level its efforts to combat what had become a modern plague.

5. The expansion of civil aviation as a medium of transport raised the problem of the relationship between it and the environment, including the question of noise. ICAO had been considering that matter for several years and had taken action on measures to impose noise limits on present aircraft and those not yet in use.

6. ICAO was also studying matters related to airport planning. In addition, with an eye to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the ICAO Assembly had adopted various resolutions defining the organization's role and responsibilities in achieving maximum compatibility between the safe and orderly development of civil aviation and the quality of the human environment.

7. ICAO had also continued its active participation in UNDP. It attached great importance to the possibilities offered it by the Programme for helping the developing States to use aviation effectively to meet their targets for national economic growth.

8. In conclusion, he emphasized that although ICAO's mandate was strictly defined, it was conscious of the need for and importance of co-operation within the United Nations system, and would continue to participate in the work of co-ordination.

9. Mr. BUSH (United States of America) stressed the importance attached by the Government of the United States to the work of the Economic and Social Council, and the need for the Council to pursue the process of reform.

10. During the past twelve months, there had been dramatic changes in the international monetary and trade system. As far as the United States was concerned, the new economic policy introduced by President Nixon in August 1971 had made it possible to slow down the rate of inflation, which had become one of the lowest in the industrialized world, and to restore expansion, which had meant a strong increase in total output and employment. Those favourable trends were expected to continue in the months ahead, but the United States remained conscious of the risks of new inflationary pressure, which its fiscal policy was aimed at discouraging. In any event, although the balance of payments deficit was expected to improve over the previous year, the trade balance was still in substantial deficit. The exchange rate changes agreed on in December 1971 had been only a preliminary step. Three major international economic problems remained to be tackled in the near future. First, it was essential to proceed to a reform of the international monetary system reflecting the

economic realities of the day. Second, there must be improvement in the United States balance of trade and payments, in the interest both of the United States and of the rest of the world. Lastly, there must be renewed effort on behalf of a balanced liberalization of world trade.

11. The United States Government believed that international monetary reform must take place in a comprehensive framework, and was gratified that the Executive Directors of IMF had recently recommended the establishment of a broadly representative "Committee of Twenty" to consider the matter. If all the parties concerned, developed and developing countries alike, showed goodwill and determination to succeed, it would be possible to construct a strong and stable international economic system responsive to future needs.

12. Turning to the question of the reforms essential to improve the work of the Economic and Social Council, he said there were four elements which should, in his opinion, be dealt with urgently: an exhaustive review of the mandates and activities of all subsidiary bodies of the Council; strict adherence to the two-year programme cycle for the consideration of the work of those bodies; improvement of procedures; a detailed examination of the role and organization of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. While the discussions of the informal working group which had met in June to study possibilities of action in regard to reform would undoubtedly be of great assistance, he regretted that it had not been possible to achieve a greater degree of consensus on the question of structural reform. The Council might well take certain steps to improve the organization of its work at the current session. The first step would be to enforce fully the principle that the subsidiary organs of the Council should meet only every other year and also to ensure that meetings of subsidiary organs conformed to the Council's schedule of meetings and not *vice versa*. Once a more rational and less cluttered calendar had been achieved, it would be easier to enforce strictly the "six weeks" rule for the circulation of documents before meetings. Lastly, if necessary, consideration might be given to prolonging the duration of Council sessions, provided that some progress was made towards merging or eliminating subsidiary organs which had lost their usefulness. The question of structural reform, of course, raised many delicate problems but such reform was essential and it was to be hoped that, despite the divergent views that had emerged in the informal working group, the Council would be able to adopt definitive measures at its present session.

13. Among other items of special interest before the Council, mention should be made of those relating to the Second Development Decade. He welcomed the increased emphasis which was being accorded to social factors in the development process. In addition to the "quantity" goals of development, consideration must be given to its "quality" goals. It was clear from the decisions of the General Assembly and of the Council in the last two years that Member States were in favour of a unified approach to planning in which economic and social factors were integrated. During the Second Development Decade, the Council, the Committee on Development Planning and the

Committee on Review and Appraisal would need to bear that principle in mind. He noted with satisfaction that the Committee on Development Planning had already given particular attention to such qualitative aspects of development as the elimination of mass poverty and unemployment.

14. Another important agenda item of special interest to the United States delegation was science and technology. It was unfortunate that no agreement had been reached on the terms of reference for the Committee on Science and Technology which it had been decided to set up in 1971 by resolution 1621 B (LI); and there again the Council would have to make an effort to reconcile the divergent views put forward at the fifty-second session.

15. The United States Government attached great importance to the co-ordination functions of the Council and, therefore, to the consideration of means of improving the co-ordination machinery. It also expected to participate fully in the in-depth review of WHO and WMO, a review which should be beneficial not only for those two specialized agencies and for the Council but for the United Nations system as a whole.

16. After describing in some detail the assistance, amounting to about \$4.5 million, which the United States Government had decided, in response to the Secretary-General's appeal, to extend to the relief and rehabilitation programme in the Sudan, he re-stated in conclusion the United States firm determination to co-operate in making the Council's work a success.

17. Mr. SANTA CRUZ (Chile) said that the main documents submitted to the Council for the general discussion of international economic and social policy, particularly the *World Economic Survey, 1971* (E/5144) – as well as the *Report on the World Social Situation, 1970*,¹ and the report on the eighth session of the Committee for Development Planning (E/5126) – confirmed the conclusions reached at the third session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (1819th meeting) and the Director-General of FAO (1820th meeting) corroborated the feeling of pessimism with regard to the future of the developing countries and of international co-operation.

18. The first conclusion that should be considered was that the economic and technological gap between the industrialized world and the world of poverty continued to widen. Between 1960 and 1969, the average annual *per capita* income had increased by \$40 in the developing countries and by \$650 in the affluent countries. Moreover, the global increase of the gross product in the developing countries in no way reflected an improvement in living conditions. Nothing could be more eloquent in that connexion than the figures quoted by the President of IBRD at the third session of UNCTAD and, more recently, at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environ-

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.IV.13.

19. It should also be noted that there were still grievous inequalities in the developing world which were often due to the subsistence of feudal structures. In many countries, almost all the land and the means of production were owned by privileged minorities representing not more than 10 per cent of the population.

20. The share of developing countries in world trade continued to decrease. It stood at present at 17 per cent and might drop to 10 per cent by the end of the decade because of the structure of international trade, which was not only detrimental to the developing countries but was also the cause of serious problems in the industrialized countries and discrimination against the socialist countries.

21. Instead of achieving the rather modest goal of the transfer of 1 per cent of the GNP as set forth in the International Development Strategy, the flow of financial resources to the countries of the third world had continued to decrease, while the opposite flow, by way of debt servicing and the repatriation of profits, had increased to such an extent that at present there was a net transfer of resources from the world of poverty to the world of affluence. In addition, the conditions and modalities for loans to the developing countries created insurmountable difficulties for those debt-ridden countries.

22. The international monetary order created at Bretton Woods had crumbled after a series of crises which had had severe effects on the third world countries, although they had no responsibility for it and had never been able to derive benefit from a system based on a rigid and discriminatory concept of trade and finance.

23. Lastly, and he reserved the right to return to that point, he drew attention to the growing danger, not only for developing countries but also for every country in the world, posed by the power and influence of large corporations and multinational private enterprises which had become decisive factors in the formulation of economic and even military policy and interfered in the domestic affairs of countries and even in international relations.

24. For his delegation, the question was whether the Council was prepared to define and implement a policy which would solve those problems, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter, or whether it was going to continue to hide its impotence behind a smoke-screen of institutional reform and counter-reform, the results of which fell short of the intentions.

25. It should be noted that there was an abysmal contrast between the political will of the majority of industrialized capitalist countries when they unhesitatingly endorsed world programmes for birth control or the protection of the human environment, and the political will which was always lacking when the third world sought from them institutional or operational initiatives to help it overcome its under-development.

26. It should be noted that, at the third session of UNCTAD, there had been partial, if not total, failure on many basic issues. For example, no agreement had been possible on a policy which would give the commodities exported by the developing countries access to central

markets and stable prices. Nor had it been possible to establish a special fund for the 25 least developed among the developing countries, and the resolution on special measures in favour of those countries had been adopted with many reservations entered by industrialized countries. The resolutions on volume, conditions and modalities of the flow of public capital to developing countries had been approved, but with the abstention of 12 industrialized countries; nor had those countries accepted effective measures to lessen the debt burden of the third world countries. There had not been unanimous agreement on the principles that should govern international economic relations, some of which were of fundamental importance, such as the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources. A large number of developed countries had resolutely opposed the measure proposed to improve the machinery of UNCTAD and establish a key international organization for trade and development. It had been impossible to reach agreement on the principles that should protect the interests of the developing countries in the trade negotiations planned for 1973 and the negotiations on monetary reform, nor had there been agreement on the creation of a link between special drawing rights and the financing of developing. In the GATT Council of Representatives, the recommendations of the Conference relating specifically to the participation of the developing countries which were not members of GATT in the planned trade negotiations and the recommendations on co-ordination between GATT and UNCTAD had been coolly received.

27. Moreover, the large industrialized countries were advocating a policy of freezing the budgets and programmes of the specialized agencies, although the devaluation of the dollar and inflation were already preventing them from undertaking any new programmes and although there was an alarming trend towards replacing the programmes financed by compulsory contributions by programmes paid for by voluntary ones. That trend was contrary to the principle of solidarity and collective economic security implicit in the Charter.

28. What was even more serious was that that policy of restrictions had already seriously damaged UNDP, which had grown rapidly between 1959 and 1969 but was at present practically stagnant. Taking into account the devaluation of the dollar and increases in costs, the amount of \$267 million pledged in contributions for 1972 was less in real terms than the \$198 million contributed in 1969. It was common knowledge, however, that the UNDP programmes had given some enterprises in developed countries contracts and sub-contracts for amounts which were sometimes higher than the contributions of those countries, and the Governments concerned exerted strong and constant pressure to obtain more contracts.

29. Reasons for pessimism were not lacking, especially since it seemed useless to hope for a change of attitude on the part of the countries whose action would nevertheless be decisive - in favour, for example, of the implementation of the generalized system of preferences or the attainment of the goal of transferring 1 per cent of the GNP to the developing countries. Of course, some of those countries had serious internal problems, but that did not justify a

policy which could be called international “anti-cooperation”. For its part, the Council continued to overload its agenda with items which were of secondary importance in comparison to the problems of the developing countries. That reflected the degree of deterioration in the United Nations system.

30. His pessimism was, however, not absolute because, in some industrialized western countries, there was a movement within the Governments themselves and in organizations of young people, workers and even businessmen which showed a growing awareness and fuller understanding of the need to assist in the modernization of the third world for the benefit of the entire international community. Moreover, the developing countries themselves had responsibilities to assume and adjustments to make. The Committee on Development Planning had been right to request those countries, in its report on its eighth session (E/5126), to take radical steps to reduce the poverty and structural imbalances to which they were prey. The technocrats of the “Club of Rome”, too, had been right to demystify the concept of development. The countries of the third world had to understand that a mere increase in GNP was not a panacea for all the problems of development.

31. The best way of truly revitalizing the Council was not to reorganize its procedures but to centre its action on genuinely important questions, such as the implementation of the International Development Strategy and the reforms called for in international trade and the international monetary system.

32. With regard to trade, the Council should first of all give its support to the conclusions of the Committee on Development Planning. It should also endorse the recommendation unanimously adopted at the third session of UNCTAD, calling for the participation of the developing countries in the GATT trade negotiations, which, unlike many previous negotiations, would deal with trade relations in general. He drew attention, in that connexion, to the legal difficulties which could arise when an organization like GATT was considered part of the United Nations system without being subject to all the obligations devolving upon the other organizations. It was therefore necessary for GATT to keep the Council, UNCTAD and the other bodies directly concerned with matters connected with those trade negotiations informed of their organization and progress. At the thirty-ninth session of the Council, the Director-General of GATT had stated that he intended to submit an annual report to the Council.² His delegation would like to know whether that plan had been carried out.

33. With regard to the monetary situation, he recalled some of the provisions of resolution 84 (III)³ adopted at the third session of UNCTAD and said that consideration

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session*, 1376th meeting, para. 7.

³ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Third Session*, vol. I, *Report and Annexes* (to be issued as a United Nations publication), annex I.

should be given to that text in order to bring about the radical reform of the present system that was essential. IMF had begun work on the reform of the monetary system without completely following that resolution. The Council should therefore make use of the competence granted to it under the agreements between the United Nations and IMF in order to ensure respect for the resolution adopted at Santiago and hasten the reform, which should be worked out with the participation of the entire international community. From the decisions which would be taken by Governments and international organizations in the coming months, it would be possible to tell whether or not the third session of the Conference had been a failure. That was why the Council's decisions on trade and monetary problems were of particular importance.

34. In conclusion, he wished to revert to the serious problem of the activities of multinational corporations which worked against national interests. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had pointed out that the very size of a growing number of those companies suggested that it was unwise to let those new centres of economic power operate in an institutional vacuum. At the third session of UNCTAD it had been decided, in resolution 73 (II)⁴ on restrictive business practices, to establish an *ad hoc* group of experts which would be responsible for studying the activities of cartels and the trade restrictions applied by multinational enterprises and companies. He wished to refer to the damage caused in Chile by the interference of a large international consortium, the International Telephone and Telegraph Company (ITT). The press had revealed that that company had exerted pressure on the Government of the United States to wage economic warfare against Chile, to prohibit imports from Chile and to organize the subversion of the Chilean armed forces in the hope of overthrowing the Government.

35. In view of the serious consequences of such interference, the Council was under an obligation to study the matter in depth. Since the UNCTAD study was to be limited to some aspects of trade, the Council should request a group of high-ranking independent experts and specialists on economic, political and social matters to make a comprehensive study of all supranational corporation, whatever their origin or influence. An intergovernmental group would be requested to analyse the results of the study, and the Council, basing itself on those findings, should discuss the matter at its fifty-fifth session and recommend action to be taken at the national and international levels. His delegation proposed to submit a draft resolution on the subject.

36. Mr. FINKELSTEIN (Deputy Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency) pointed out that, at the institutional level, the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons had continued to have a market impact on the activities of IAEA, which had

⁴ *Ibid.*

concluded or was preparing to conclude, numerous safeguards agreements.

37. IAEA had also stepped up its promotional activities, as was evidenced by the considerable increase both in its resources for technical co-operation activities and in voluntary contributions to the regular technical assistance programme. To prevent any increase of the burden of safeguards expenses on developing countries, the General Conference of 1971 had established a special method for calculating contributions, while an amendment to the Agency's Statute would enable those countries to be more widely represented on the Board of Governors. Furthermore, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the People's Republic of China had been invited to occupy its place in IAEA, and the Board of Governors had also recommended to the General Conference to admit Bangladesh as a member of the Agency.

38. At the administrative and budgetary level, administrative expenses accounted for rather more than 20 per cent of the regular budget for 1973, which had been established at just over \$18 million, the remaining 80 per cent being devoted to technical activities.

39. With regard to the Agency's activities, the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in September 1971, had been a major scientific event which had revealed the rapid advances being made in the applications of nuclear power. Emphasis had been placed on the practical problems of integrating nuclear power into national economies and putting into use other peaceful applications of the atom. The Conference had confirmed the keen interest of certain developing countries in small- and medium-sized reactors which seemed best suited to their electrical grids. Consequently, the Agency was now carrying out, with IBRD assistance and in co-operation with several developed countries, a detailed survey of the market for nuclear power plants in certain developing countries during the next five to fifteen years, with a view to helping those countries to estimate their investment needs and to plan their programmes. The Agency was also carrying out UNDP uranium prospecting projects in Greece and Pakistan and had helped ten other developing countries to look for uranium.

40. With regard to the relationship between nuclear science and the environment, he pointed out that the controversy on that question was in danger of retarding the growth of electric power capacity in certain countries. The Agency had made an active contribution to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment by reviewing that problem, together with that of the management of radioactive waste; it had drawn attention to the use of nuclear techniques for improving food and water resources and detecting pollutants; and it had published a booklet, prepared in co-operation with WHO, on the impact of nuclear power production on the environment.

41. In view of the Agency's interest in the problem of radioactive waste, the Stockholm Conference had recommended that Governments should explore, with the Agency and WHO, the feasibility of developing a registry of releases into the biosphere of significant quantities of

radioactive materials and that they should expand international co-operation on radioactive waste problems.⁵

42. In the food and agriculture sector, research by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agriculture had given positive results, such as the elaboration of new varieties of rice seed and the development of a radiation-attenuated vaccine for treating certain animal diseases.

43. In Yugoslavia, the Agency had set up, with UNDP assistance, a national centre for nuclear research in agriculture, which had served as a model for such centres in India and Brazil; similar projects would be implemented in Lebanon and the Philippines. The Agency had also begun to carry out, with the support of 21 countries, a programme for testing the wholesomeness of irradiated foods.

44. In the field of medicine and radiation biology, the Agency was endeavouring, in close co-operation with WHO, to improve the effectiveness of radiation treatment of cancer. It was also participating in research on the application of nuclear techniques to the study of malnutrition and tropical diseases, the development of micro-organisms for industrial uses and the preparation of radiation-attenuated vaccines against tropical diseases.

45. The Agency was no less active in the sphere of hydrology, where it was participating in UNDP projects for the development of water resources. Likewise in co-operation with UNDP, it was carrying-out a project for setting up a large-scale demonstration plant for radiation sterilization of medical products in India. In Argentina it was establishing a centre for the application to industry of various non-destructive testing techniques for quality control and for safety.

46. With reference to nuclear science information, the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) had been expanded with a view to making available to all member States a full range of scientific and technological information. INIS was being co-ordinated with the UNESCO World Science Information System (UNISIST). It was planned to set up an INIS regional documentation centre in India. The Agency had held a series a week-long regional training seminars to help developing countries to supply data to INIS.

47. On the subject of co-ordination with other international organizations, he said that excellent co-operation had been established between the Agency and the United Nations in the preparation of the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

48. In its report,⁶ the ACABQ, after reviewing the Agency's arrangements for ensuring co-ordination with other agencies, the growing part taken by FAO and UNESCO in the work of the International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity at Monaco and the agreements with WHO and UNIDO, had concluded that those arrangements

⁵ See report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (A/CONF.48/14) (to be issued as a United Nations publication), part one, chap. II, sect. B, recommendation 75.

⁶ A/8447/Rev.1, issued separately (offset).

were working satisfactorily. In the area of the protection of the environment, the Agency was collaborating closely with a number of specialized agencies, in particular as a result of recommendations formulated at the Stockholm Conference. With regard to new machinery recommended by the Stockholm Conference, he recalled the fear expressed by the Agency on that occasion that the rights and duties of its governing bodies might not be fully respected. It was to be hoped that the final arrangements would enable full use to be made of existing organizations and machinery so as to ensure more effective action by United Nations agencies. IAEA, for its part, was ready to continue to co-operate with the latter and to participate in all efforts undertaken at the international level. Following the broadening of the terms of reference of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation by the General Assembly in 1970 (resolution 2623 (XXV)), the Agency's Board of Governors had studied the resulting co-ordination problem with a view to avoiding duplication. The Agency was also ready to co-operate fully with the Committee on Natural Resources.

49. In conclusion, he pointed out that, although the Agency's resources had increased they had been somewhat eroded by changing exchange rates and inflation. Requests for assistance were increasing faster than the funds necessary to meet them. Despite those difficulties, it was encouraging to note that in 1972 the number of large-scale UNDP projects executed by the Agency had more than doubled as compared with 1971. That showed the growing ability of the nuclear energy centres in developing countries to contribute to industrial development and economic growth.

50. Mr. GOAD (Secretary-General, Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said that one of IMCO's most important activities was the formulation of international agreements or conventions in which an international rule of law in those matters for which IMCO was responsible was being progressively established. Accordingly, IMCO had concentrated its attention on two main objectives: passing on to the developing countries the shipping expertise to which it had access, and helping to preserve the environment.

51. In the field of development aid, IMCO's technical assistance programme had been rapidly expanded in recent years. The number of fellowships and of experts and consultants which it supplied had more than doubled from 1971 to 1972, and the value of projects under execution amounted to some \$15 million. Those projects included a project for training the officers and men of the Brazilian Merchant Navy, a regional project for the Arab countries designed to expand their merchant marines, a similar project in Algeria, and a project connected with shipbuilding in Bulgaria. IMCO was working in co-operation with UNCTAD's Division for Invisibles, with the ILO and with the regional economic commissions; it had recently published, jointly with UNCTAD, a booklet entitled *Technical Assistance in Maritime Transport*.

52. IMCO had long been concerned with the protection of the environment, but its work in that field had been

substantially expanded in recent years and was currently channelled towards seven main objectives: controlling the discharge of all pollutants from ships; reducing the risk of accidents at sea which might give rise to massive pollution; establishing conditions for the safe carriage of polluting cargoes; reducing the release of pollutants in the event of accidents; recommending practical measures for combating pollution; facilitating action by States outside their territorial waters to enable them to mitigate or eliminate pollution arising from accidents; and providing equitable compensation for the victims of pollution. In pursuit of those objectives IMCO had prepared six major international agreements, three of which were already in force.

53. In 1971 IMCO had been responsible for the conclusion of the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Compensation Fund for Oil Pollution Damage. That Fund could also be used to procure personnel and material services required by contracting States to prevent or reduce pollution damage. Furthermore, IMCO had recently published a manual on methods of cleaning up pollution, bearing in mind the difficulties which developing countries, for example, would face if they had to deal with a massive pollution threat. IMCO had also provided several countries with experts to advise governments on methods of controlling marine pollution, including the formulation of appropriate legislative measures.

54. Throughout the United Nations Conference of the Human Environment, IMCO had given its full support to the Secretary-General of the Conference and his staff. It was ready to assume, within its capabilities, any additional tasks which the international community might wish to entrust to it. It was encouraging to note that the Conference had invited all Governments to support the International Conference on Marine Pollution which IMCO had convened for the autumn of 1973. The main purpose of that Conference was to prohibit, by the end of the present decade at the latest, all deliberate pollution by ships, whether in the form of oil or of other noxious and hazardous substances, and to minimize accidental spillage. The preparatory work for the Conference was being carried out with the utmost vigour, taking account of the work done at the Stockholm Conference and the preparations for the Conference on the Law of the Sea.

55. Even if it succeeded in achieving its main objectives, the Conference on Marine Pollution would not have settled all the outstanding problems. It was not enough to draw up international agreements: they had to be kept up to date in an age of rapid technological change, and, above all, care had to be taken to ensure that they were enforced. IMCO's technical and legal organs possessed the necessary qualities to undertake that task successfully.

56. Several interesting developments had taken place during the previous year. In the autumn of 1971 IMCO had been responsible for the conclusion of an agreement on safety and other conditions on "pilgrim" ships. In addition, IMCO had initiated, in co-operation with ITU and the telecommunication authorities of member States, work on an agreement on the establishment and operation of an international maritime satellite system. IMCO was also

preparing for the United Nations/IMCO Conference on International Container Traffic which was to be held towards the close of the year.

57. Other noteworthy activities had included the conclusion, in co-operation with IAEA and the European Nuclear Energy Agency (ENEA) of OECD, of the Convention Relating to Civil Liability in the Field of Maritime Carriage of Nuclear Material; the work undertaken with UNESCO on ocean data acquisition systems; the work on the organization of search and rescue; the work done by IMCO and the ILO on the training of masters, officers and seamen; and the development of safety regulations for fishermen and fishing vessels.

58. He hoped that the Economic and Social Council would recognize that IMCO, with a professional staff of only 45 members and a budget of only \$2 million, was performing an important task with modest means.

59. Mr. ARCHIBALD (Observer for Trinidad and Tobago) said that he had been encouraged by the observations on the role of the Economic and Social Council made by the Secretary-General in his opening statement (1819th meeting). His delegation firmly believed in the importance of the Council: the developing countries could make their voices heard in it and explain their difficulties, and most of the questions with which it dealt were of direct concern to them. In the modern world the developing countries were constantly feeling the effects of events entirely beyond their control. For example, although the Caribbean countries had had no say in the decision to enlarge EEC, for historical reasons that decision could not fail to affect them.

60. The Economic and Social Council had a duty to examine the realities of the world situation, and each of its

sessions must be a moment of truth. It might be asked, for example, whether the slogan "trade is better than aid" was not condemned to remain a dead letter so long as the industrialized countries did not agree to grant the developing countries greater access to their markets.

61. The Economic and Social Council must, of course, consider the results of the third session of UNCTAD and of the Stockholm Conference, but it could not neglect other important events, such as the enlargement of EEC, the opening of new trade negotiations in GATT or, within the United Nations itself, the application of country programming or the adoption of the idea of the least advanced among the developing countries. Similarly, the dynamic advance of the developing countries in the industrial field would justify reconsideration of the role of UNIDO.

62. The Council could not remain aloof from monetary problems, but in order to be in a position to state its views on the subject it must find time to reflect and to hold consultations. The present organization of its work hardly permitted that. If the Council helped to stabilize the financial situation of the United Nations and to improve its efficiency, its reputation would be enhanced and it would demonstrate its ability to deal with world problems.

63. Lastly, he pointed out that in the summary of the Economic Survey of Latin America, 1971 (E/5161) hardly any attention was paid to the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean; it was merely stated that petroleum production in Trinidad and Tobago had dropped. In table 6 on trade groupings, no account was taken of CARIFTA, and in table 5 (balance-of-payments statistics) not a single English-speaking country was included. An explanation would be appreciated.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.